

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

248 Harding Way W.
Galion, OH 44833

Church E-mail: office@uccgalion.org

Rev. Harvey: pastor@uccgalion.org

Phone: 419-468-4380 www.uccgalion.org

Rev. Darrin Harvey-----Minister
Adair Pittman-----Office Secretary
Mary Ann Stone-----Financial Secretary
Stephanie Sikora-----Sr. & Bell Choir Director
Jennifer Arbaugh-----Organist
Jessica Hammond-----Organist
Martha See-----Kitchen Custodian
Rev. John Miller-----Pastor Emeritus
Larry Nigh-----Visitation Minister

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First United Church of Christ

248 Harding Way West
Galion, OH 44833

*“United in Christ’s Joy we
welcome, love and serve all”*

Rev. Darrin Harvey
Minister

Volume 32 No. 9

September 2020



The VISITOR

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday School
9:00 a.m.

Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday ~ Thursday

9:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. ~ 4:00 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. ~ 12:00 p.m.



Dear Church,

I have been thinking and praying about our church in the age of COVID-19. Based on our circumstances and guidelines by health officials, it looks as though we will be continuing with our current mode of operations through the fall season. Our COVID response team has decided that we will be outside, weather permitting, until October. This provides us with the additional safety of being in fresh air for our worship. We are not planning on Sunday School or fellowship activities in general. Our community dinners will continue to be done in a carry out fashion. Our meetings will be done in person but with social distancing in place. Our worship services will continue to be online and on the radio and I'm continuing to do the Wednesday night prayer service which I have been leading.

My concerns are with connectivity in general within our faith community. In our latest Elder meeting I tasked the group with continuing to keep the call tree going to make sure that we are touching base with those whom we do not see regularly.

I am beginning a Tuesday Bible study that will be in the middle of the day at noon on our Facebook page starting on September 8th. This will provide us with some educational opportunities that we are not otherwise getting at the moment. I have decided that we are going to be doing a study called "Living the Questions." It's a series of sessions that invite us to consider our faith in relation to our 21st century reality. I have done this series before and I'm excited to try it with you!

Our Wednesday evening prayer services have focused on "Reaching Out," a book by Henri Nouwen that has, I believe, been very helpful in helping us to cope during times of, as he says, "solitude." It's an older book but one that I believe can be helpful in developing our spiritual lives despite our relative distance from one another.

I would encourage you please to keep praying for one another and if you have anything at all for us to pray for, please don't hesitate to let our office, the prayer chain or myself know about it. We are here for the care and development of your soul. There is a great deal happening with folks in our community of faith right now and we ask that you pray and check up on each other often. This would include our young people, as they are returning to school this season. It has been a challenge to everyone involved in the school process this year.

Henri Nouwen views our spiritual lives as lived, built for one another. Prayer for each other will help build a community built on hospitality towards each other, a positive, hope-filled and affirming community of faith.

Blessings,
Pastor Darrin



HOSPITALIZATIONS

Christine Coe, Sandy Keller, Ruth Ritchey & Wendy Fetherolf

If you are hospitalized, it is very important that you (or a family member) inform the church office. Remember, hospitals can no longer provide us with this information. Please call 419-468-4380.

BIRTH

Congratulations to Nick & Kaylee Wise on the birth of their son, Mason Russell, born August 23, 2020. Mason weighed 8lbs. 2 oz. Blessings to all!

MARRIAGE

Congratulations to Tom & Deb (Zellner) Hildebrand who were married on August 8, 2020. Best wishes!

Birthdays

1st:	Ruth Anne Deppen	23rd:	Phil Brown
	Dennis Russell		Luke Eisnaugle
2nd:	Julia Feik		Jerry Nicholls
	Korin Marie Feik	24th:	Don Kindell
3rd:	Brian Conklin	25th:	Jeff Court
9th:	Dave Burdett		Mathis Koschnick
	Karen Estep		Sabrina Roach
	Anniston Roesch	26th:	Sandra Keller
10th:	Reanne Neal		Mary Nicholls
12th:	Nicholas McDaniel		Rachel Roesch
	Melissa Stiffler	27th:	Marjorie Shaffer
14th:	Andrew Bickert		Mary Ann Stone
	Madelyn Bickert	28th:	Adam Cotsmire
	Shelby Gledhill		Mark Powell
	Charles Keller	29th:	Ranee Fox
	Lee Anne Shifley		
16th:	Zach Gledhill		
	Pamela Kalb		
17th:	Lucas Biederman		
	Bucky Walter		
20th:	Brennen Hocker		
	Marissa Koschnick		
22nd:	Keith Eichhorn		

Anniversaries

1st:	Mark & Katy Klettlinger
3rd:	Doug & Mary Ann Stone
7th:	Charles & Karyn Christman
8th:	Daniel Young & David Kunkleman
15th:	Andrew & Nicole Claus
17th:	Jerry & Ruth Volk
18th:	Mike & Sarah McGrady
19th:	Brian & Brenda Treisch
20th:	Ben & Kerry Riggs
22nd:	James & Marcheta Gibson
24th:	James & Connie Keller
25th:	Steve & Kelly Reynolds
29th:	Mike & Leslie Swartzbaugh

Congratulations to Emery & Marjorie Shaffer on their 75th anniversary on August 19, 2020.



The Hills are Alive!

THE TEMPLED HILLS CAMPAIGN

Last year we heard from a speaker about the many changes and updating going on at Templed Hills church camp and their campaign to raise money for much needed improvements. The camp updated the restrooms, heating system, lighting, energy efficiency and built a large pavilion. Our mission group committed to helping with this campaign for two years. We had hoped to physically visit the camp and see the improvements first hand, but with COVID, we have decided this is not the year for that. So instead, we will have a virtual tour of the camp during our service on September 20th and 27th followed by a raffle after the service on the 27th. Every time you donate in support of our church camp you will be entered for a chance to win a small meat bundle, gift certificate to Phil's deli or camping equipment. Donate each Sunday in September and have four chances to win! You can make a donation by writing a check and marking "Hills" on the memo line or placing cash in an envelope marked "Hills" along with the completed back of the brochure included with this Visitor. We all have fond memories of visits to camp. The camp is the big winner. Who will be the lucky winners at First Church?

Fresh Apple Cake

4 c. diced and peeled apples	2 eggs
2 c sugar	2 tsp. vanilla
4 T. butter	3 c. flour
1 c. chopped nuts	1 tsp. salt
3/4 c. brown sugar	1 tsp. cinnamon
1 1/2 c. oil	1 tsp. baking soda

Grease and flour 9x13 pan.

Mix together the apples and 1 cup of sugar in a large bowl. (let stand)

Topping:

Then mix together the butter, nuts, brown sugar in a small sauce pan.

Melt slowly and let cool. (Save for later)

Cake:

Mix together the oil, 1 cup sugar and eggs, then beat in the vanilla. Add this to diced apple mixture.

Then add the flour, salt, cinnamon and baking soda. **Stir well with a spoon.** Pour into the pan.

Sprinkle the topping all over the cake.

Bake at 350 for 40-45 minutes or until done.

Sprinkle powdered sugar over warm cake

Enjoy,
Lisa Eichhorn

Organ Repair Payoff

The Sterrett Fund will contribute \$48,000. We need to fill the keys to get the rest. Over \$77,700 has been donated through Sept. 1, 2020. The balance due on the loan is now \$37,945.

The colored in keyboard on the right represents the progress in paying for our organ repair. Every \$500 fills a key, and when all keyboards from bass to treble are filled, we will be “paid off.” Contributions of all sizes are appreciated. If your contribution is in honor or memory of someone, indicate that.



Greetings Choirs and Congregation,

It's been too long since we praised and worshipped God by singing and ringing together. For a while longer, our old familiar way of making music must continue to be postponed. After researching articles, discussing with musical colleagues and speaking with church leaders, we have decided to begin the fall season of Sr. Choir with small groups of singers - that means a maximum of four.....spaced at least 6 feet apart. We will have various combinations of solos, duets, trios and quartets.

For Bell Choir, we will be limited to six ringers at a time, also spaced 6 feet apart and wearing masks. I was thinking we could alternate players every 4 to 5 weeks, depending on repertoire and availability.

I truly hope you are interested in participating under these less than ideal circumstances. However, there is no pressure. You must do what feels right for your individual health, needs and livelihood. Safety for ALL of us is a priority. That being said, if you would like to sing, ring or both, please let me know by way of a call, text or email.

I ask for your patience and understanding as we move forward in these uncertain times. I will do my best to coordinate/schedule the small groups, choose suitable music, rehearse in a timely manner, follow protocols and joyfully serve the Lord!

Looking forward to hearing from you SOON!

Rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 9.

6:30 - Ringers

7:30 - Singers

Blessings,
Stephanie Sikora
419-496-9888
srsikora8@gmail.com





ALTAR FLOWERS

Please sign the "Flower Chart" on the bulletin board outside the church office.

RADIO BROADCASTS

The cost is \$70.00 per broadcast. Please sign the chart posted on the bulletin board outside the church office. Listen on WBCO 107.5 FM on Sunday from 9:00am-10:00am.

PRAYER CHAIN

For prayer requests please call the office at (419)468-4380.

FOOD PANTRY

Canned meats, soups, crackers, noodles, paper products, cleaning supplies, and personal care products are needed. There are containers at both entrances to the sanctuary.

VISITATION MINISTRY

The Visitation Ministry ministers to our shut-in members who are physically unable to attend church. If you are interested in making visits, or if you need a visit, please contact the church office (419- 468-4380).

CARING CORNER

We continue to have cards to sign in the Caring Corner. If you know of any member, friend or relative who could benefit from visits or cards, please let the office know! Also, please continue to fill the pull tab jar. Little things mean a lot so save those tabs for the Ronald McDonald House!



FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH MEAL

The next Fellowship and Outreach Meal will be held on Thursday, **September 17th at 5:00p.m. This meal is CARRY-OUT ONLY.**

This month we are looking for unfrosted brownies. Providing a dessert is a HUGE help for the cooks. A dessert sign up sheet is posted outside the office, if you can help. Thank you to all that are supporting this program.

STUFF THE BUS/MEDICINE CABINET

Once again we asked you to help the kiddos with the start of the school year to have clean bodies and clothes. During August we collected taxable items and money for detergent, soap, toothpaste, feminine products, toilet paper, body wash etc. We collected over 80 items and received \$455 in cash donations that will be used to purchase additional items. It is always important to be clean and fresh. Thank you to everyone that contributed and made this mission a success!

CONSISTORY MEETING, AUGUST 18, 2020

- The Presbyterians have been welcomed and are worshipping in the Fellowship Hall to promote social distancing.
- Stephanie Sikora is heading up planning for special music starting the second Sunday in September. The choir at this time will not be utilized due to Corona Virus.
- Starting in September an on-line Bible Study will be added on Tuesdays at noon.
- Weather permitting, outdoor services will be held at least through September.
- A snow removal service is being researched.
- Holy Joes will be in November.
- There will NOT be a Thanksgiving meal.
- Outside groups will continue to use the building.

GENESIS FRIENDS

We welcome all ladies and guests to the annual Genesis Friends picnic on Sunday, September 20 from 12:30 - 3:00. It will be held at Lowmiller's Pond. Due to COVID, we will not have a potluck, rather we invite each family to bring their own lunch and utensils. For those who do not wish to bring a meal, we will serve drinks and desserts. You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs so that we can be socially distant. You are also encouraged to wear a face covering when you are not eating, if you are unable to maintain distance. We look forward to seeing you there!

Scholarship Applications Available in September

Scholarship Applications:

The 2020 Galion First UCC scholarship application forms will be available for current college students on Sunday, September 6th. Pick forms up at the Deacons' tables on Sundays or in the church office during the week. Completed forms are due to the church by Sunday, October 11th. Eligible students will be notified of their scholarship award in early November and applied to 2021 spring semester tuition/fees.

Annual Scholarship Luncheon Fundraiser:

Our Annual Scholarship Luncheon fundraiser will be a "drive-up/take-out" luncheon to be held after church service on October 4th. We will be serving our popular pulled pork sandwiches, cole slaw, beans, dessert and a bottled water.

As in previous years, we appreciate the wonderful support that our Galion First UCC members show our college youth. Drive up to the west entrance of the church on October 4th at 11:00 a.m. and participate in our annual fall fundraiser.

Galion First UCC Scholarship Committee



SEPTEMBER

Week of Sept. 6

Sun. 2 Sam. 17:1-23
Gal. 3:6-14
John 5:30-47
Mon. 2 Sam. 17:24-18:8
Acts 22:30-23:11
Mark 11:12-26
Tue. 2 Sam. 18:9-18
Acts 23:12-24
Mark 11:27-12:12
Wed. 2 Sam. 18:19-33
Acts 23:23-35
Mark 12:13-27
Thur. 2 Sam. 19:1-23
Acts 24:1-23
Mark 12:28-34
Fri. 2 Sam. 19:24-43
Acts 24:24-25:12
Mark 12:35-44
Sat. 2 Sam. 23:1-7, 13-17
Acts 25:13-27
Mark 13:1-13

Week of Sept. 13

Sun. 2 Sam. 24:1-2, 10-25
Gal. 3:23-4:7
John 8:12-20
Mon. 1 Kings 1:(1-4) 5-31
Acts 26:1-23
Mark 13:14-27
Tue. 1 Kings 1:32-2:4 (5-46a) 46b
Acts 26:24-27:8
Mark 13:28-37
Wed. 1 Kings 3:1-15
Acts 27:9-26
Mark 14:1-11
Thur. 1 Kings 3:16-28
Acts 27:27-44
Mark 14:12-26
Fri. 1 Kings 5:1-6:1,7
Acts 28:1-16
Mark 14:27-42
Sat. 1 Kings 7:51-8:21
Acts 28:17-31
Mark 14:43-52

Week of Sept. 20

Sun. 1 Kings 8:22-30 (31-40)
1 Tim. 4:7b-16
John 8:47-59
Mon. 2 Chron. 6:32-7:7
James 2:1-13
Mark 14:53-65
Tue. 1 Kings 8:65-9:9
James 2:14-26
Mark 14:66-72
Wed. 1 Kings 9:24-10:13
James 3:1-12
Mark 15:1-11
Thur. 1 Kings 11:1-13
James 3:13-4:12
Mark 15:12-21
Fri. 1 Kings 11:26-43
James 4:13-5:6
Mark 15:22-32
Sat. 1 Kings 12:1-20
James 5:7-20
Mark 15:33-39

Week of Sept. 27

Sun. 1 Kings 12:21-33
Acts 4:18-31
John 10:31-42
Mon. 1 Kings 13:1-10
Phil. 1:1-11
Mark 15:40-47
Tue. 1 Kings 16:23-34
Phil. 1:12-30
Mark 16:1-8 (9-20)
Wed. 1 Kings 17:1-24
Phil. 2:1-11
Matt. 2:1-12
Thur. 1 Kings 18:1-19
Phil. 2:12-30
Matt. 2:13-23
Fri. 1 Kings 18:20-40
Phil. 3:1-16
Matt. 3:1-12
Sat. 1 Kings 18:41-19:8
Phil. 3:17-4:7
Matt. 3:13-17

Report from the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee continues to watch the year over year giving closely. As of the end of August, we are projecting to be around 95% of the budgeted giving amount at year end. While we are still behind budget, we are continuing to make up ground and we are very grateful for your support!

The year over year comparison is:

2019 \$92,064

2020 \$90,147

We are blessed that we have been able to meet our obligations and pay our bills during this difficult time. We will continue to monitor the budget in case we have to make adjustments as the year progresses. As of this date, we have not used budgeted reserve funds. As each month passes, it becomes more likely we can stay within the budget approved at the congregational meeting in January.

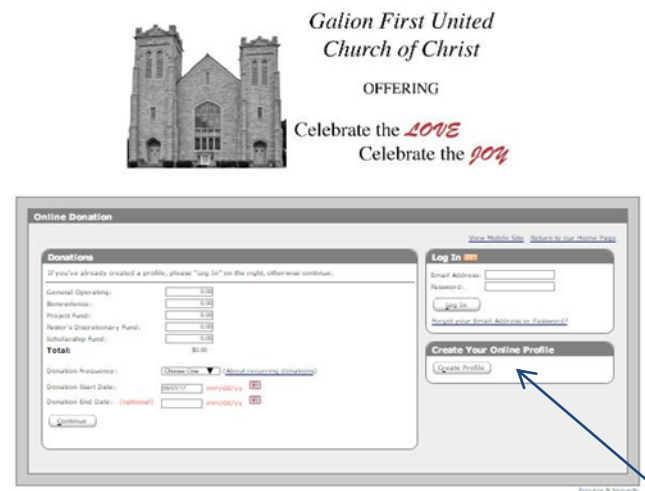
If you are in a position to give and not attending in person worship, offering envelopes can be mailed and on line giving is available. Instructions are provided on a following page.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support of the missions and programs of First UCC.

Stacey Hocker, Finance Committee Chair

Instructions to access on line giving:

- 1.) Visit the church website at www.uccgalion.org
- 2.) Click on the **Giving** button in the important links section at the bottom of the home page. You should then see:



- 3.) Click on the **Create Profile** button, then
 - 4.) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.
-

Spotlight on the Broadcast Ministry Fund

In 2003, the church received an unexpected bequest from the Mildred Nelson Estate. This was unexpected as Mildred Nelson's contact with our church came through our weekly radio broadcast. She did not worship in person at the church. Since the bequest was to be used locally, the gift was split amongst the Current Fund, the Memorial Endowment Fund and the Capital Improvement Fund. This bequest stabilized the church's finances at the time. In addition, the Broadcast Ministry Fund was created.

In 2003, the idea was for the Broadcast Ministry Fund to be used to enhance worship, including improving our radio broadcast. There was talk at the time of expanding into video broadcast ministry. Over the years, this fund has paid for our sound system, our sound booth, computers, projection equipment, hearing units, repairs, a portable sound system and enhancements to our music.

Fast forward to March of 2020 when we found ourselves unable to worship in person due to the coronavirus pandemic. The church, with the help of our talented sound team, was able to make the transition quickly to online worship through our Facebook page. Shortly after, services were also broadcast on YouTube. If you tuned into those first broadcasts in March, I think you will remember the quick progression in quality over those first few weeks. Much of our equipment was borrowed and pieced together for those first broadcasts. As it became apparent we would need to make worship services available on line for the foreseeable future, the church invested in new equipment for streaming services. These improvements were made possible through Mildred Nelson's gift. How fitting that when we were all forced to worship at home, this gift made so many of the enhancements possible.

With technology, we know we are reaching people outside our congregation with our on line broadcasts that we are not able to know with the radio. Since the return to in person worship, many members are still at home and tuning in on Sunday mornings. We would like to keep this fund alive for future upgrades to serve people who are unable to worship in person with us. If 2020 has taught us anything, it is the importance of finding new ways to stay connected.

The Broadcast Ministry initial bequest was \$43,500. After the new sound system was paid for, \$34,000 was invested in the fund. This fund has paid out over \$24,000 in the last 17 years for various equipment. This year, over \$6,550 has been spent on new technology in order to improve our streaming services with some additional expenses to come. After the equipment needed for streaming our services, we anticipate the Broadcast Ministry Fund to be depleted. Some of you are aware of this and have donated to this fund and we thank you. However, we feel others may not be aware and may like to contribute. You may do so by marking your envelopes for the Broadcast Ministry Fund. If you are able, please consider supporting this important fund!

-The Finance Committee





THE TEMPLED HILLS

C A M P A I G N

www.loveourhills.org

Have you heard "The Hills are Alive"?

Join us in supporting the capital campaign for the Templed Hills church camp. A donation along with the completed section on the bottom of this page will place you in a drawing for a meat package, deli certificate or camping supplies to be drawn on Sunday, September 27th after our church service. Complete the information below and place it with your donation for a chance to win. Don't forget to write "Hills" on your envelope or on the memo line of your check. Thank you for your support.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

(Yes, if you win we will deliver!)